

**Loudoun County Government**  
**DISABILITIES SERVICES BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**October 5, 2010**

**MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Frank Lombardi, Ken Shipman, Tim Tozer, Tom Wlodkowski, Lovely Lall, Joe Granata, Julian Murray, Rowe Leathers, Ronald Hoogerwerf.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Angela Shirazi, Liz Mills.

**INACTIVE MEMBERS:** Greg Conrow

**STAFF:** Julie Withrow (DSB County Liaison Support)

**PUBLIC:** Tracee Garner (LEND); Rowena Beatty (Special Recreation Advisory Board).

**I. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tracee Garner asked for DSB member support at an October 19 meeting at the Rust library regarding weekend transportation issues.

**II. DISCUSSION WITH TIM HEMSTREET**

Frank Lombardi introduced Mr. Hemstreet who serves as the County Administrator. Mr. Hemstreet provided the DSB members with his educational and professional background. Frank then proceeded to provide Mr. Hemstreet with an overview of the DSB (see attached handout). Mr. Hemstreet and the DSB discussed one of the DSB's overriding issues of attempting to provide better transportation for persons with disabilities. When the conversation shifted to accessibility issues, Mr. Hemstreet suggested that the DSB open a dialogue with county staff, including the inspectors, the planning department, and the office of transportation services. Mr. Hemstreet noted that he has seen such cross-collaborative efforts yield successful results in other counties where he has worked. Mr. Hemstreet indicated that if the DSB commits to providing its time, then he will commit to making sure that the DSB has the necessary access to persons within the county administration.

Mr. Hemstreet and the DSB discussed how they should move forward to start this dialogue with the county staff. Mr. Hemstreet said he will work with Julie to make sure that county staff members are available to the DSB. To sum up the discussion, Mr. Hemstreet said that the DSB should open a dialogue with: plan reviewers; architects; and inspectors. According to Mr. Hemstreet, the DSB cannot be everywhere, and should therefore try to broaden its outreach into the county administration.

### **III. CALL TO ORDER**

Frank Lombardi called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Tom Wlodkowski motioned to approve the September 2010 minutes; Lovely Lall seconded the motion. September 2010 minutes approved.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Press/Feature Stories**

Frank submitted a letter to the editor of the Loudoun Times Mirror for publication. Frank said that the letter would be published in either tomorrow's LTM or the following week. The DSB noted the following ideas for future stories:

1. School Bus: Frank will contact the family to obtain permission to write about the children.
2. Tom and Public Transportation: Tom will develop an article for submission dealing with his experience using public transportation in Loudoun County.
3. Rowena Beatty will contact ECHO to work on drafting an article for submission.

Julian Murray noted potential issues with the Loudoun County commuter bus. In the interest of time, Julian agreed to table this discussion until the retreat.

#### **B. Village at Leesburg Update**

Ron Hoogerwerf provided an update of the potential parking issues at the new Village of Leesburg. Through a series of photographs (see attached), Ron showed the lack of on-street parking for persons with disabilities. In addition, Ron noted that there is a lack of signage directing people to the parking garages where there is accessible parking. Ron specifically noted that there are no problems with the parking spaces in front of Wegmans or the bank.

Next Step/Action Plan: Ron is going to contact the management company to ask about its long-term plans to provide on-street parking for persons with disabilities. Frank will reach out to Supervisor Burk with the DSB's action plan.

### **VI. STAFF REPORT**

The issue with handicapped stickers on the doors at the county government center has been resolved.

Frank mentioned that that the Board of Supervisors officially recognized Joe Granata at its most recent public hearing to honor Joe's leadership of the DSB. In addition, Frank presented Joe with a DSB Exemplary Service Award.

## **VII. ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION**

Tom asked if any DSB members knew about a disability policy. Julie mentioned that there was an ADA audit done of the county a number of years ago that resulted in an agreement between the county and the federal government. Under that agreement, the county agreed to 30-35 recommendations. The website and the policy statement were one of the recommendations

Julian mentioned that he had read an article about the cost to a business with complying with the ADA. Joe said that, speaking from experience, he has found persons with disabilities are great employees and that the initial investment pays for itself. Ken Shipman spoke about some surveys that show a 17% return on investment to companies that employ persons with disabilities.

Joe said that the DSB should consider something similar to the FAME award to highlight businesses that employ persons with disabilities.

The last item discussed was a reminder about the upcoming annual retreat. Frank will send out an e-mail and asked DSB members to let him know if they plan on attending. The DSB discussed the ethical problems with accepting free food from a local supermarket chain and decided that, in order to maintain its impartiality, it should not accept any such offers.

A motion to adjourn was passed at 9:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting: November 2, 7:00 p.m.**